Annual Report on

Romanism

1834

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Report.

When a Captain draws up his army, and prepares to give battle to an enemy, it is very important that he be not only well acquainted with the number and strength of his own forces, but also that he obtain as much correct information as possible respecting the number strength and position of; and the mode of warfare practiced by the enemy with which he has to contend.

So at the present time when the great Captain of Salvation is riding forth gloriously, and calling all his faithful Soldiers to follow him into the field of conflict, it is a matter of great importance that we be well acquainted not only with the strength & movements of all the different divisions of the Christian army; but also with the situation, the resources and the stratagems of those principalities and powers — those systems of ignorance, superstition & Idolatry, which oppose themselves to Christ — against which we must contend, and for the destruction of which we

must labour in endeavouring to build up his Kingdom.

Amongst these systems, your Committee consider the Church of Rome as holding a very prominent place; and while they believe it to be a system equally opposed to the glory of God our Saviour, and destructive to the temporal, Spiritual & eternal interests of mankind, they consider it to be the indispensable duty of every minister of the Gospel and every lover of the Redeemer and of his Cause, to make themselves acquainted with its true Character and earnestly to contend against it as an enemy both to God & man. — In the course of their enquiries on this subject during the past year, while they have found Cause of rejoicing that in some parts of the World the light of truth is breaking in upon the thick gloom which has so long covered the nations and that the blessings of Civil & religious liberty are beginning to be appreciated by nations which have long groaned under the galling ~~yoke~~ & debasing yoke of this horrid system; yet they have found much Cause of sorrow on account of its prevalence in other parts of the World, and the general advancement

of its interests. Perhaps never since the era of the Reformation was the cause of Popery more prosperous than at the present time*, and never were its deluded adherents more vigorously employed in disseminating their principles. And it is a matter of deep regret that the great body of Protestants never were so insensible as they seem at the present time, either to the dreadful evils connected with Popery, or the value of those privileges which we enjoy, and which were secured to us by the contendings and the blood of our Martyred Fathers of those days.

But amid these dark dispensations of Providence when this foe of Zion is enlarging her tent & stretching out the curtains of her habitation, we would still trust the promise of a faithful God, and anticipate with joy its final overthrow, when the Lord of Hosts shall destroy it with the breath of his mouth and with the brightness of his coming.

In presenting the Annual Report on the State of the Romish Church we would first take a brief view of its present State and prospects in Europe in those Countries where it has so long held unbounded

* According to some accts. the number of Rom. Cath. throughout the world is about 130. 000. 000. while others make it above 150. 000. 000.

sway, and made merchandise of the souls & bodies of men. And we rejoice to say that there is some reason to hope that the time of their emancipation from bondage is drawing near.

In Rome itself the very seat of the beast, there are many things which seem indicative of his speedy downfall. Unlike the time when the mightiest earthly Sovereigns trembled before him — when the tide of idolatrous worship, and the wealth of Nations flowed towards the eternal city, and its blasphemous pontiff; the boasted power of the one is now gone: and the accelerating ruin of the other gives evidence that the mighty angel has already cast the Millstone into the ~~sea~~ midst of the sea; and his voice awful and unerring in Prophecy, is now heard more distinctly in Providence, saying "thus shall the great city Babylon be thrown down and be found no more at all." Religion is there reduced to a mere show, a mass of idolatrous or unmeaning ceremonies; and has evidently very little hold on the hearts of the people.

That part of Italy which is still under the temporal Authority of the Pope is only a small territory, contain

-ing from 12000 to 14.000 Squar miles: the number of inhabitants a few years ago was a little mor than two Millions; but this number is decreasing very rapidly on account of the extreme unhealthiness of the Country. But altho' the temporal authority of the pope is now so much reduced — altho' he can no longer depose princes & dispose of Crowns and Sceptres to those who best serve his interest, yet he still claims unbounded authority over the consciences of all within the Communion of the Catholick Church as appears from his encyclical letter lately published.

In Southern Italy the Roman Catholic religion is every where established, but it has not that character for bigotry and intolerance which it has in some other places.

In the Kingdom of Naples altho' two thirds of the whole property is said to be in the hands of the Ecclesiastics, yet the Protestants enjoy great freedom.

The King presents annually to his holiness a palfrey and a tribute of 7.000 Ducats as an acknowledgement that his Kingdom is a fief of the Romish See.

In the North western States property is the

established religion. They are divided into Eight Bishopries. There are a number of protestants, the descendents of the Waldenses who still inhabit the Alpine vallies. Their number a few years ago was supposed to be about 30. 000. They have free toleration. — In the North eastern quarter, the Romish is also the established religion; but most of the wealthy & respectable inhabitants are protestants of the Helvetic confession. They have Churches in all the principal towns.

In no Country in the world has the Roman Catholic religion been more firmly established than in Spain. — Of all papists, the Spaniards are the most bigoted and the most ignorant. In a population of between ten & Eleven Millions, the number of ecclesiastics of different orders amounts to near 189. 000. There are 45 Bishops and 8 Archbishops. These have hitherto exercised the most unbounded authority over a people sunk in ignorance and debased by superstion. A short time ago there were in Spain nearly 9. 000 Convents, and the number of those who had taken the vow of celibacy was

upwards of 200. 000. — The wealth of the Clergy has been immense: Persecution and intolerance has been the consequence. But within the last year, a most happy change has commenced. The Queen regent has introduced a more liberal form of government; a Spirit of toleration has in some measure obtained ground, and the monks have evidently lost that despotic influence over the minds of at least a considerable portion of the people which they have so long held with an iron grasp.

That they are sensible of their danger is evident from a proclamation of the Bishop of Leon addressed to the people; in which he endeavours to stir them up to oppose the government, and espouse the cause of Don Carlos. The language of the proclamation is very much calculated to excite the fears and work upon the feelings of an ignorant & superstitious people; but it is hoped this struggle will have a happy issue; and that their connections and intercourse with free & enlightened nations will be the means under God of introducing among them not only a more liberal form of government, but also

a religion purified from all those errors and abominations which have so long debased their character & rendered them the most degraded & miserable nation in Europe.

In Portugal the Romish religion has been established and enforced upon all, with the same rigour as in Spain. They have a Patriarch, two Archbishops, 107 Bishops, 417 Convents, 150 Nunneries 22.000 Secular Clergy 14.000 monks & 10.000 Nuns All this in a population of about two Millions & a half.

But there, there is ~~xxx~~ a still more interesting State of things than in Spain. Don Pedro, altho a roman Catholic is too bold & independent to submit to his roman majesty in all things with that servility which his predecessors have ~~done~~ shown; which has secured for them from the holy See, the title of "Most faithful Kings". In July last he removed from the goverment the Pope's ~~Nuncio~~ legate, or Apostolic Nuncio, and banished him from the Kingdom, because he found him intriguing again

the government of the ~~King~~ Queen. He carried his measures still farther; suspended some of the Bishops, drove some whole communities of monks from their Monastaries — shut up some of the religious establishments and seized their property for the use of Government — declared that all ecclesiastical patronage shall be abolished, and that the Civil government shall assume the sole right of presentation to benefices in the Church. He also threw open the Public prisons and liberated all those who had been imprisoned thro' the influence of tyranical Romish Priests, and declared that all who opposed these measures — whatever their rank or calling might be — should be treated as rebels against the State.

These bold measures which amounted to a renunciation of the Popes authority, filled the mind of his holiness with grief and horror; and in an allocutory addressed to the Clergy of Portugal, he deprecates what he stiles these "audacious measures" of laymen rashly arrogating to themselves a power over sacred things; he also reprobate, and declares null & void all these decrees of the government at Lisbon; and

threaten that unless this refractory Son of holy Mother be brought to a better way of thinking; he (the Pope) will have recourse to those Spiritual Arms, with which God has invested him in his Apostolical Ministry; intending no doubt by the terror of bulls & excommunications to intimidate the ignorant & superstitious, and to induce them to withdraw from the support of the goverment. But it would appear this has produced little effect; Don Pedro supported by England & France is still going on in his rebellious course; and consequently his holiness has formally excommunicated him, together with the Young Queen and all the officers of the government who have taken part in these proceedings. At the same time the Pope ordered the arms of Portugal to be taken down from the hotel of the Portuguese Consul at Rome; but the Ambassadors of France and England declared that if such an insult should be offered to any power in alliance with the respective governments they would demand their passports

We presume the thing was not done. Don Pedro

has since threatened that unless the excommunication be removed he will cut off all the revenue paid by Portugal to the Roman See, amounting to £45.000 pounds Sterling - about 220.000 Dollars yearly.

What the immediate effect of these things will be, we know not, but we hope in the end, they will lead to the emancipation of Portugal from those fetters with which she has so long been bound.

In France altho' the Roman Catholic religion is established, yet it has a very slight hold on the minds of a great mass of the people. The Clergy of the different grades and order, amount to 40.700, drawing a revenue of 33018.000 florins about Six Million Dollars Annually; yet the great body of the people pay no regard even to the outward forms of religion; many are professed infidels.

Much good has been done lately and is now doing among the French Catholics, by the Circulation of the Scriptures and religious tracts. There are also several religious periodicals published in Paris of a truly evangelical character: these are doing much good.

Conversions from Popery to Protestantism, are frequently occurring. In some instances whole villages have given in a declaration to the Mayor of their determination to live an die Protestants; and have demanded the protection of the laws as religious bodies.

The greater part of the French Catholics do not acknowledge the supremacy of the Pope; Some of the Priests have applied for license to get married in the usual way, and it has already been decided that the marriage of a Romish Priest is valid in France as there is no law in the Civil Code that forbids it. This shows how very little they regard the authority of the Holy father at Rome.

Time will not permit us to give a detailed account of the State of Switzerland and the German States. We will only remark that in the Eight Cantons of Switz.d where Catholicism is established, much good is doing by means of Bibles and Tracts.

In Austria, Catholicism is firmly established; and altho' other religions are tolerated, and

protected: they (the Austrian government) have lately become much alarmed on account of the prevalence of liberal principles in the neighbouring Countries, and have become very jealous of protestants. The Western Foreign Miss'y Soc: have determined to send one or two Missionaries to Trieste (within the Austrian Dominions) during the present year.

No material change has taken place on this subject in the other nations of the Continent during the past year; except that the Bible Societies are using every effort to circulate copies of the word of God, and we know that his word will not return unto him void.

The Emperor of Russia has lately banished a R. C. Bishop, because he found he was favorable to the Poles. It is not yet known how his holiness will bear this new insult - whether he will hurl the thunders of the Vatican against Nicholas, as he has done against Don Pedro. We presume that in the one case as in the other, they would prove only "telum imbelle sine ictu."

In Great Britain, the number of R. C. is

said to have increased rapidly within a few years. In Ireland they number upwards of Six Millions, about three fourths of the whole popu= lation, and perhaps there are no people in the World more bigotedly attached to Popery than they All the means that have been used to enlighten them by Schools, itinerating Preachers, Scripture Readers &c. have hitherto done very little good.

In England & Scotland they have increased very rapidly. In 1799 (42 years ago) the number of R.C. chapels and Mass houses in England, and Scotland, did not exceed 300, while in 1833, they exceed 1.000. In 1792 there were only two popish Seminaries in England; in 1833 there are above Fifty In 1792 there were no popish Colleges in England; but now they have 9 Colleges overflowing with Students. In 1829 there were only 51 Chapels in Scotland while in 1833 (in the space of 4 years) they had increased to 74. It is supposed the population exceeds 600.000. We presume however that this rapid increase is not to be attributed to Conversions from Protestantism, but entirely to the

great influx of Irish into these Countries.

Upon the whole from the general appearance of things we would fondly hope that in Europe the Pope's reign of Terror is now past. That he who is now overturning will ~~overturn~~ continue to overturn, till that mighty fabric of wickedness and every abomination shall fall to utter ruin.

Nor are these favourable appearances confined to Europe. In South America, the light is beginning to dispel the thick darkness; and they are beginning to break asunder the fetters of ecclesiastical as well as civil despotism. The government of Venezuela has proclaimed freedom of worship to all; and thus opened the republic to Protestants. The episcopal bishop of went to Carracas, and consecrated a portion of ground for a Protestant burying ground. Several members of Protestant churches, from different Countries now residing in that city have written to the United States earnestly requesting at least two Protestant Missionaries, to be sent to them as soon as practicable. Many of the Catholic priests

are violently opposed to this advance in the Cause of liberty; and one bishop has been imprisoned for resisting the measure, and it is supposed he will be banished.

In the republic of Mexico similar measures have been adopted. The President Santa Anna has succeeded in cutting off the tithes and reducing the income of the Romish ~~Church~~ Priests. He has also ordered that all the real estate and other kind of property belonging to the Monasteries & Convents within the Territory be devoted to the publick Treasury; also all the real estate & other property belonging to some other religious Societies. He is also pressing upon Congress the subject of free toleration in religion. It is earnestly hoped he may succeed in this measure as we believe it tends to secure the peace & happiness of the Country, and also the triumph of Gospel truth, over the blindness and enslaving influence of Popery.

But if the Roman Catholics are losing ground in some parts of the world, they are endeavouring

to establish themselves in others with a zeal, and perseverance which Knows no bound. They are now engaged in the work of Missions with a zeal and to an extent, which Protestants in general are little aware of. And in so far as human measures are concerned they have every thing at their command to render these Missions effectual.

Their Missionary establishments are extensive and well conducted. The one which holds the first rank is doubtless the Propaganda at Rome. It was founded by Gregory 15th in 1622. and designed for the propagation of the Catholic religion throughout the world: and by its vast number of Missionaries are sent into almost every Country. It holds a session every week in the presence of the Pope in a palace built for the purpose. Its printing Office is furnished with types of all the important languages of the Globe, and is altogether the first establishment of the Kind now in existence.

A magnificent and immense library is also attached to it. In 1627 Urban 8th connected with it a College for the propogation of the faith- for the

education of Missionaries. Many Scholarships have since been established for the support and education of young men from Heathen Countries.

It is stated that at present there are young Men from China and different parts of Asia from Africa, and one North American Indian receiving an education to qualify them for becoming Missionaries to their respective Countries. "All the important languages of the world" says the Romish Encyclopedia "are taught there."

It is impossible to obtain any correct information regarding the funds or operations of this institution; but they must be immense. The expense of the Seminary alone are said to amount to Fifty Thousand Roman Dollars yearly. Large sums are raised for its support in all Catholic Countries. A short time ago 60.000 Dollars were raised in Spain at one time.

There have been two Societies for Foreign Missions existing in France for a long time. One is called "The Congregation of the Priests for Foreign Missions." Another called "The Seminary of Pau

for Missions abroad". It is intimately connected with the Propaganda at Rome. It is now in active operation and has several Missions under its care. There is also in France another of more recent origin. Its seat is in France, but the printing press is at Rome. The funds are raised in France. The Missionaries are sent from France, and they send their reports thither. It consists of two divisions, each having its own Central Council. That of the Northern Division is seated at Paris, and that of the Southern at Lyons. They publish a work entitled "Annals of the Propagation of the faith." Three numbers are issued yearly: Several of these numbers have been sent to a gentleman in Boston by a friend in Paris. They give some account of the operations of this new Propaganda. In 1830 it expended on its several Missions about 51. 000 Dollars; 24. 000 Dollars of which was sent to the United States.

We have not been able to obtain any correct information concerning it of a later date: but of this we are assured that is pursuing its plans

with increased rather than diminished efforts.

It has also a Seminary for the education of converted heathens, that they may become Missionaries. Last year four Chinese Catholics arrived in France for this purpose.

With regard to the Missionary Society in Austria, called the "Leopold Foundation", the chief attention of which has been directed to the United States, we need not be particular as the brethren are well acquainted with its history. It was founded on the 13th of May 1829. The Constitution, and several addresses delivered on the occasion were translated into all the different languages of the Empire and extensively circulated, and contributions from all quarters flowed into its Treasury. Its principal establishment is in Vienna, under the immediate patronage & direction of the Government, The Arch Bishop of Olmutz, President, and the archbishop of Vienna vice-President. The receipt from its commencement upto 1832 were 160.906 florins, very near #74.000 of which were sent to the diocese of Ohio in three remittances in 1830, 50.000 florins - 21.000 Dolls.

The letters of bishop Fenwick of Cincinnatti and also of Frederick Rese, late vicar general of that diocese, now bishop of Detroit, to the directors of the Society in which they acknowledge the receipt of the money and articles sent them and give a detailed account of their proceedings; have been published in this Country; also the reply of Prince Metternich, ~~Secretary~~ Chancelor of State to his imperial Majesty, in which he assures the bishop that the Austrians will not fail to contribute to the support of Catholic churches in America. With these letters the brethren are no doubt acquainted.

It would be interesting to give a detaild account of the & operations of the R. Catholics on Missionary ground; but it is impossible to obtain correct information on this subject. We will state the few facts which we have been able to collect. They commenced operations in Central Africa at a very early period. and altho' little authentic information can be obtained regarding the State of these Missions yet it is certain they are still continued and in some places they have many followers.

They have one Mission on the river Senegal several hundred Miles in the interior. According to some late acc.ts it is in a very flourishing State. In an article in the Rhenish Encyclopedia for 1827 entitled a description of the empire of Mulia, between Mozambique, and Angola, in the interior it gives a most interesting account of the progress which the Portuguese Capuchin Missionaries make there. There they are preaching popery in the very Centre of Africa, where no protestant Missionary ever yet set his foot.

In northern Africa they have several Stations. At Algiers, Tunis, Egypt, and some other places. In the Levant their Missions are numerous.

The Capuchins of the Congregation of Paris, have 12 Stations within the Turkish dominions, namely Galata, Pera, Constantinople, Smyrna, Scio, Athens Napoli di Romania, Candia, Naxia, Paros, Milo, Syra, & Castadachi. The Capuchins of Touraine have 8, Nuosia, Amica, Cyprus, Aleppo, Grand Cairo, Diarbeck, Ninive & Babylon.

The Capuchins of Bretagne have Six, viz.

Damas, Tripoli in Syria, Baruc Siddon, and Don Mt. Lebanon. The Jesuits have 10, viz: Constantinople, Smyrna, Damas, Seid, Alepo, Mt Lebanon, Tunis, Scio, Naxia & Negropont.

The Carmelites have 3. Alepo, Tripoli in Syria and Bassora. There is also a Mission at Antura which has existed above a Century and a half; and another at St Jean De Acre. We could not learn to what order they belong. In all 40 Stations, well supplied with men & money. The Missionaries at some of the Stations conduct themselves with a zeal & perseverance worthy of a better Cause; & that their labours have not been unsuccessful our own own Missionaries have often testified. They have been persecuted beyond measure; and suffered privations almost incredible, yet still they persevere in their labour; still hoping one day to unite all the heretics in the east, and in the west to the mother Church, from which they have apostatized. They have also Missions in Armenia & Persia, but we hear nothing of their Success.

India has long been the Scene of the

most unwearied efforts. Time will not permit us to give even a Sketch of their labours in the different parts of that extensive Country.

Their Missions are numerous, but Concerning their Success or their present Condition it is impossible to obtain any Correct information as their own Statements are so contradictory to one another.

The Abbe Dubois, who was a Missionary to India, 32 years, but who has lately returned to Europe, in his letter "on the State of Christianity in India" says "it is impossible to convert the Hindoos to Christianity". He says that altho' the preaching of the doctrines of Christianity was formerly successful to some extent, at present it is attended with no effect - that his own labours had been in vain - that the word sown by him had fallen on a naked rock, and had very soon dried up. He ridicules the idea of Protestants attempting to Christianize the Hindoos since the Jesuits have failed. But father Beckett, another Missionary (we believe now labouring in Southern India) gives the most flattering accounts - repres-

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-ints the converts as ~~most~~ very numerous, as abounding in piety & zeal - having the greatest reverance for the blessed virgin and all the Saints, - observing the holidays and prescribed fasts with the greatest vigour, abounding in acts of Kindness and love to one another - and some of them living in perfect innocence, "Keeping even till death that precious innocence which they received at their baptism". He speaks of the great number of children both of infidels and Christians which he and others have baptized - and mentions one old woman who has baptized 10.000 Children, and has sent them all to heaven, as "not more than two of them have escaped death."

With such jarring Statements it is impossible to come to any Correct Knowledge of the truth.

"The labours of the Protestant Missionary have been blessed among this class in different places. Dr Scudder mentions a very interesting State of things among the Portuguese Catholics in Ceylon, and some of the English Missionaries in South Eastern India, report a number of Conversions to pro-

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=estantism from the Catholics in that Quarter.

In the Philipine Isles according to some accts they have an Archbishop, 3 bishops, and upwards of a Million of Members. They have 700 Parishes supplied with Augustines - Franciscans, and Jesuits.

It appears from the annals of the Propaganda that the Missions to China are not abandoned notwithstanding all the difficulties they have had to struggle with; on the Contrary they have determined to prosecute them with renewed vigour.

From the lastest accounts it appears that there is still a bishops See and a college in the provin of Su Tsuke, and at Yel-Kiang. There are about 200 R. C. exiles, with four priests.

From the Mission at Yon King, the intelligence for 1828 states that the present Emperor Kin K Menk, tho' he does not persecute the Missionaries, yet he will not allow any more to enter. Mr Lenger, the Apostolic vicar and 3 priests were detained at the Capital, teaching mathematics, and translating

english papers for the Emperor. In some other places they have still flourishing Missions.

The number of ecclesiastical functions performed at our station, during our year, will give us an idea of the prosperity of the Missions and the diligence of the Missionaries.— They have baptized Children of believers 3.237; of unbelievers 1.000; adults 1.006; confirmed baptisms performed by Catechists and others during the absence of the Priest 5.365; heard confessions 177.456; administered the communion 78.941 times; viatic. 1.303; extreme unction 2.706; performed Marriages 943, and confirmation 3.941. (Extracted from a letter of Mr Masson, Missionary at Ban Bang dated 1827.)

The Mission in Cochin China is nearly in the same condition as the others, being under the same government. In October 1828 Mr Bellamy, formerly Missionary in Michigan, sailed from New York, to join this Mission, by order of the Seminary of F. Miss. at Paris. He arrived safely at Tang-King, and found four Missionaries one of whom was

a bishop, old and very infirm. They have train=ed up a numerous native clergy there. The whole population is between 15, & 20.000.000.- The number of R. C. is about 150.000.

The Mission in Siam is still going on. There is an apostolic vicar who resides at Bancock; there are other Priests assisting him — They have also a Mission in Thibet; it was established Eleven years ago. A Queen of that Country was converted by an Italian who lived there and whom she raised to the Sta=tion of Prime Minister. She requested the College of the Propaganda to send Eighty Missionaries. Five Capuchins were sent there immediately. What their success has been we do not Know.

During the past year the Pope sent Bishop England of Charleston as Apostolic Legate with a letter to President Boyer of Hayti, desiring that republic to put herself under the Kind protective Care of Holy Mother. But while

the President gave the bishop England, a polite reception, the government has wisely determined not to comply with the wish of the Pope, and will not admit the interference of a foreign Power, even under the specious garb of religion.

Bishop England is now in Rome, and has been created a Cardinal

The Pope has also appointed during the past year Mr Bachelot as the Apostolical prefect of the Sandwich Islands. And it has been proposed at Rome to send an Apostolic Vicar to the Colony at Liberia, and the bishops of this Country have been consulted on the best mode of establishing a Mission there.

These facts show what efforts to extend the influence of their religion, and to subject the whole world to their tyranny. But it to the United States that their attention is especially directed, and here we may expect their strongest efforts will be made. What their designs are with respect to the whole world, and the United States in particular, will

appear from the following language used by one of their own priests — "The Catholics are the only true Church and will prevail over the whole earth. The high Episcopal Church, wherever located is but a step behind us, and the Island of England is upon the ~~brink~~ very point of turning over from Episcopacy to popery.

A great portion of Europe though politically divided are united in the firmer bonds of religion. Wherever (says he) an ecclesiastic of our Church is found, there is a rallying point: there is an officer to guide and concentrate our forces. Ireland is teeming with Millions of Catholics, ready to move towards any point which would tend to advance the only true Church.

We are sending our Missionaries east, west, North and South. We are determined to make one great effort to take the whole earth.

We have wealth laid up in ages past, now drawn out to accomplish these great interests. South America except the pagans are our friends and allies. The Canadas are mostly

Catholics, Very many are found in the Florida's and in all the cities and villages. In many parts of the States the Catholics quite control public opinion. There is no Country under heaven which presents to the Catholic Church such an inviting field as the United States. Their goverment is liberal; public opinion favourable; the people Charitable and unsuspecting. The great Western valley of the Mississippi and its branches open an extensive and interesting field of labour which we intend to pre-occupy. Our plan is to build meeting houses and School houses, Academies & Colleges, and place in these institutions first rate men. We mean to take the Country by ~~storm~~ seizing on the rising generation. In going forward in the ~~Conversion~~ accomplishment of the Conversion of the world we expect to meet with many difficulties in many places. Particularly the Scotch Nation presents a serious obstacle. They have always arrayed themselves against us. But we shall have to butcher them."

Here is a bold and fearless avowal of their plans and purposes. Their deep schemes have been laid and their powerful and well conducted Machinary have been in operation for many years. Hitherto matters have been conducted with great secrecy, but now they so far succeeded through their own deceit and the apathy of Protestants, that they think their end is secured and therefore they avow it more publicly, and if they be allowed to go on a little longer, we see what those may expect who dare to oppose them. They will butcher them.

It is too evident that their chief attention has been for a long time and is now directed to the U. States. They boast that Canada is theirs, and that South America is theirs; and if they could only subjugate the U.S. then they would have the whole of the Western Continent under their iron yoke. But if they succeed in this, then woe, woe! to the inhab-

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of this Country. We Know there are some who ridicule our fears on this subject and tell us there is no danger of this ever taking place. It is not our duty neither is it our purpose at present to discuss this subject, otherwise we might fill a volume with well authenticated statements which would show that these fears are not so gromdless.

At present we only ask your attention to the statistical accounts of the R. C. in the U. S. for the present year and compare it with what it was some years ago. We will make a short statement of facts and leave the brethren to draw their own inferences. —

In August 1790 Dr Jno Carroll was consecrated first bishop of Baltimore (not quite fifty years ago.) then the number of R. C. in the U. S. was small; after that however they increased so rapidly, chiefly by emigration from Europe, that in 1808 Pope Pius the 7th erected

Baltimore into an archbishopric, and created
four
new dioceses Boston, New York, Philadelphia
and Bardstown. That is 24 years ago, but now
they have One archbishop, 10 Bishops; 334
Churches & 327 Clergy and it is supposed 600.000
people. In the arch Diocese of Baltimore, includ-
ing Maryland, Virginia and the district of
Columbia there are 67 Clergy. In the diocese
of Philadelphia, comprehending Penn. Del. & N.
Jersey, 44; In N. York comprehending N. Y.
& East Jersey 27. Boston comprehending New
England, 26. Charleston comprehending North
and South Carolina & Georgia 14, Mobile compre-
hending Alabama & Florida 11. New Orleans comp-
rehending Louisiana & Mississippi 29. St Louis
comprehending Missouri, the western part of Ill.
and Arkansas Territory 34. Bardstown including

Kentucky, Tenn.- Indiana, and the eastern part of Illinois, 36. Cincinatti comprehending Ohio 19. Detroit comprehending Michigan & the North West Territory 18. They have now 8 Colleges and 9 Seminaries & acadamies for young Gentlemen in different parts of the Country. These are in gen= =eral supplied with Professors and Instructors of good Standing, and are well Conducted. They have 28 Convents and acadamies for Young Ladies and in general they are well attended. They have also in Baltimore a school for Coloured girls under the direction of the Sisters of Providence, a religious Society of Coloured women established in Baltimore in 1829, to whom his holiness Gregory 16. granted many Spiritual graces and favours. They re= nounced the world & consecrate themselves to God and the Christian education of Coloured Girls.

There are 26 Hospitals & Asylums under the care of the Sisters of Charity. These are attended by 138 Sisters all of whom are bound by the most Solemn engagements to use all their endeavours to promote the Cause of Romanism, and it is well known that they are most indefatigable in their labours: leaving no means untried by which they can support the interests of Holy mother.
What they intend to effect by their Schools and other institutions is evident from the language already quoted; 'They intend to take the Country, by seizing on the rising population'. Abundance of extracts might be produced from their own publications to shew that they keep this end always in view and that through the unpardonable indifference of Protestants, they have been too

successful: one or two must suffice at present.

The following is from an editorial remark in the Annals of the Propaganda already alluded to; and published in the Quarterly Register. Alluding to the bishop of Bardstown, he says "Mr Flaget has established in his diocese many Convents of Nuns devoted to the education of young females. These establishments do immense good. Catholics & Protestants are admitted indiscriminately. The latter after having completed their education re= =turn to the bosoms of their family full of esteem, and veneration for their instructresses. They are ever ready to refute the calumnies which the jealousy of heretics loves to spread against these religious communities; and often when they have no longer the opposition of their relations to fear they embrace the Cath: Religion.

The Archbishop of Baltimore in one of his letters speaking of the schools in Maryland, says - "These schools are frequented not only by Catholics but by Protestant Children; many of whom embrace the Catholic Religion, or at least receive impressions in its favour, which they carry into the bosom of their families." In the same letter he says "One object of the boarding school establishment of the Sisters of Charity, is to give a Christian Education to Protestants." And the late Bishop Fenwick, in some of his communications, speaks of his having been enabled to establish a Convent in his Diocese, all the Nuns of which are Protestants who have abjured their former faith. These no doubt had, many of them, been pupils in R. C. schools.

Many other extracts of the same nature might be given; but these are sufficient to show that their great end in establishing all these Colleges and Schools is ultimately to bring the whole Country under papal dominion. And of the success of these schemes we have lamentable proof. They added above forty Thousand to their number, during the last ~~years~~ year in the valley of the Mississippi alone; and it appears from good authority they have already a majority in some towns, and it is stated, even in some entire Counties in Ohio. It is true this great increase is chiefly owing to emigration, but not entirely. There are many instances of whole families becoming Romanists merely from having sent their Children to their Schools. But from whatever quarter it arises, the fact is too plain. even

doubted - that Popery is gaining ground in this Country in a far greater proportion than the rest of the population; and if protestants are not aroused from - what we belive to be their highly criminal apathy on this subject, it is to be feared they will be convinced of their error when it will be too late.

We are persuaded that one error fraught with much mischief prevails on this subject. That is regarding the Romish faith as merely one of the various forms of Christianity which exist ~~now~~ by equally harmless and equally entitled to the love and respect of mankind. This spurious liberality which goes to destroy the eternal distinctions between truth and falsehood, is too common amongst those who are called

protestants. They do not view with sufficient abhorrence the blasphemy and idolatry of the papal system, as to esteem these matters worthy of being contended against. And even those who are in some degree convinced of the errors of the Romish church, but yet consider it as a part of the Church of Christ; they cannot be expected consistently with their own principles, to oppose it with the spirit which they would do it if they regarded it as indeed that wicked one which God has declared that he will destroy with the breath of his mouth.

Another source of error on this subject (and it is allied to the last mentioned) is supposing that the Church of Rome is in a great measure reformed - that popery is not what it was two or three centuries ago, and this opinion the Roman

Priests endeavour insidiously to Christ in the public mind, altho' it is directly in the face of all their blasphemous pretensions to immutability.

To show the fallacy of this opinion, we need only refer you to the Popes encyclical letter, in which he makes as bold claims to infallibility as any of his ghostly predecessors. He seems shocked at the very idea of reformation in the Church, and execrates the freedom of the press, the indiscriminate circulation of the Scriptures and every thing that has a tendency to enlighten the minds of the people. No! once give to papistry the power, and they will very soon teach us a lesson on at least one doctrine in their creed 'The immutability of their Church'

In conclusion we remark, our duty on

this subject seems plain. We ought to study and make ourselves well acquaint with the true character of Romanism. Wherever we go we may expect to meet with it. In this Country in the large cities and in the Western wilds it is equally prevalent. And if we go to almost any part of the heathen world we shall hypercriticc! find it there before us; and of all the systems of wickedness with which we shall have to contend we shall find it the most insidious, and hostile to the true Spirit of Christianity. We ought therefore to be prepared to meet it - to be able to expose its false and pernicious principles, to exhibit it to the people in all its naked deformity - to show them its God dishonouring and soul-ruining Character, that thus we may be instrumental

in saving the world from its destructive influence. And for our encouragement we may rest assured that whatever dark and troublesome scenes the Church may have to pass through, they will all have a glorious issue. Truth and righteousness will in the end triumph. The glory of our Redeemer will be vindicated. Antichrist shall be destroyed. The Kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

Drawn up in behalf of the Committee on the Romish Church, and read before the Society of Enquiry. — July 1. 1834.

by James McEwen.

Princeton N. J. July 1. 1834.

Annual report of the Education Committee read before the Society of Enquiry Aug. 1st 1834.

The same spirit of activity which has been so manifested in the other great departments of benevolence, during the past year, has been felt in the cause of scientific & religious Education. It is but lately that this subject has received attention from those who have possessed power to benefit as well as understand & indeed no earlier than the commencement of last year a discussion was carried on in one of the most enlightened London Magazines, not as to the manner & means but as to the propriety of general Education. Yet this fact will not appear strange "if we consider how many in discussing this question appeal rather to their passions or prejudices than to their reason."

But this subject has now been decided if not in a way to satisfy these ill wishers at least in a mode to silence them. A mighty government of vast resources & immense population establishes an Education department

a few years since, and in connexion with it enacted a law compelling every subject to devote 7 years of their life to the acquirement of literary scientific & moral accomplishments. The experiment has succeeded & during the past year its result has been laid before the world to be admired & wherever practicable imitated. It is in a measure to this circumstance must be attributed the great success of this cause particularly in Europe - but evidently not entirely for already ~~the cause~~ began to awaken interest which had extended to nations when the name of Prussia never reached - for proof, witness the desires of the inhabitants of the Islands of the sea & of the dark dwellers in western & southern Africa.

Your attention is first invited to the state of Education in our own beloved land; and thro' the blessing of heaven we are still enabled to say that the work is steadily progressing. The importance of learning is becoming more properly appreciated by all classes of our community. But owing in a great measure to the nature of the books generally perused and of the irreligious character of most of our public men the importance of the assistance which religion may lend to

learning is not extensively perceived. This is the reason why many of the states after they have at a great expense established schools & libraries have not been sufficiently careful in the choice of teachers & books & the money appropriated has been often injudiciously sometimes even injuriously employed. This has been perceived in some of the states & plans proposed to remedy the evil, but hitherto almost in vain. A committee was appointed by the New York Legislature to report upon the propriety of adopting the Prussian system in that state. The report was unfavorable on the ground that the system was an arbitrary one - not at all in accordance with the genius of a free people; and the matter here dropped without discussion. But this want of religious influence in the schools established by government is in a good measure compensated by the extended system of Sabbath Schools which has already produced such beneficial effects.

The importance of a more numerous and learned ministry has been felt owing to the fact that the general standard of information is rising; a thirst for knowledge is becoming more common and the usual consequence

follows the importance of this subject is more manifest as viewed from the high situations of literary attainment. The Church too are becoming more imbued with the true spirit of Christianity - long experience has declared that for the edification of the church for the preservation of the purity of its government & doctrine & for the extension of its dominion learning & piety must unite. And now when the truth constantly beams brighter & brighter when the great moral revolution that shall exalt man from ignorance to knowledge from his state of degradation to those high sensibilities & affections which though implanted by nature need the cultivation of science & religion. the Church begins to look about & ask for the men to throw themselves before the mighty moving & guide it into the course of knowledge of religion, of happiness.

It is impossible to ascertain with much accuracy how many young men in this country are qualifying themselves for the gospel ministry but enough is known to render the fact certain that their number & their proportion of educated has somewhat increased. The number of theological students in the various evangelical Seminaries

has not varied for from 2500 ~~one hundred~~. The number of pious young men who have been assisted by the various benevolent Education Societies has exceeded 1800 a far greater number than ever before & the increase consists of those who would probably have never entered the ministry at all but for the generous aid which the church has so freely afforded. For much addition to the numbers of the ministry it will henceforth be necessary to rely almost entirely upon those benevolent societies whose plan is to seek out merit and elevate it from the state retirement & depression into which it has been forced by poverty. This is beginning to be extensively felt by the church and it is the cause of her coming up with a ready helping hand to the assistance of those embarked on the noble undertaking. This is manifested by the receipts of the societies during the past year; those of the Gen. Ass Board of Education & the American Board amounting to almost 100.000 dollars. Many circumstances of the most thrilling interest in connexion with these Societies have occured; but it is here forbidden to notice them - enough that they all indicate that to estimate the importance of the Societies we must not revert to the

past - - - for, though this influence of this beneficiaries has been felt in the instruction of 200,000 children & youth though they have been instrumental in more than a thousand revivals, though not far from 200,000 people listen statedly to this preaching - though this influence is felt to the very ends of the earth - at least 50 of this young men being even now on foreign shores proclaiming the truth to the believers in false Gods - Still it is not to the past but to the future - the glorious future - bright in its prospect of success & triumph to which we should look for results.

But little it is believed has been done for the cause of general education in Canada & the other British American Provinces. In 1831 previous to last year the number of common schools in Lower Canada was 1,099; of colleges academies & convents 38. It is to be desired and believed that the government will henceforth be animated by a more liberal spirit and that the Romish Priesthood who have as usual endeavored to shut out light and bind faster the bands of superstition may be induced by this fears to move on with the people.

The tide of religious Education in Mexico is at a still lower ebb - But a short time has elapsed since the apostle came

come
of her disenthralment from the yoke of religious bon
dage. it came bringing gladness to every enlightend
heart – a few days passes on & lo! the Star of Rome is
again on the ascendant – another revolution is occurring
Santa Anna, a pistol to the emissaries & money of the Pope viz. 50.000 dolls per month
is endeavoring to subvert the liberties
of his country – & again Mexico is plunged into
darkness – Literature Science & religion finding
no place amid the din of war, turn away & pass to some
more favored clime where they will be counted as friends &
benefactors.

The republics of South America are in still too
much confusion to do any thing for the cause of Education
and the late political events has produced the same effects
in the west Indies.

From America we turn our Eyes to enlightend Europe
& first allow them to rest upon that Northern Island from
whence has irradiated the light of civil liberty –

A good deal of feeling has been manifested in England
within a few months upon the subject of genral Edu
cation. It is allowed upon all sides that "there is not at
this time any thing like a sufficient provision for the
proper education of youth & there is no reasonable ground

to expect that under the present system them can will be" & that in the words ~~and on the authority~~ of Dr McGill of Glascow a great deterioration has taken place within forty years in the manners & morals of the laboring classes.

Yet much has been done by the societies ~~of late~~ for diffusing knowledge, Penny Magazines - tracts & cheap pamphlets have been extensively circulated have been read with pleasure & profit by great multitudes - yet they are not sufficiently effective - The manufactory people are as a mass too ignorant to feel interested in them. The Government influenced by the general feeling have appropriated 20.000 pounds to the erection of schools and it is hoped that this is but a prelude to more effective operations.

But little has been done to exalt the standard of ministerial qualifications in the established church - much complaint has therefore been uttered and a deep feeling is abroad that this state of things must be changed - religious truth is too extensively abroad to permit mankind to tolerate a ministry many of whose members hardly know the foundation truths of their profession. But the case is very different among the dissenters. tho' their students have had great obstacles to contend against - the chief of these is to be found in the want of proper schools - Their academies are very pleasant but an

but are not exactly the plans to make first rate scholars And the London University is too new & has yet too much to struggle against to be of great advantage even if its utter disregard of all religion could be tolerated.

Great efforts are now making to repeal the law which prevents the dissenters from taking degrees in the universities and the act has already passed the house of Commons by an overwhelming majority - It will probably be stopped for the present in the house of Lords but not long - Literary & religious liberty is worth as much as civil & Liberty shall triumph.

Scotland remains in nearly the same state as at the beginning of the year - The papers state that there is a slow process of demoralization going on in the highlands that less interest than formerly is felt in respect to Education exhibited as the Edinburgh Review bitterly complains by "the barbarous manner in which the Scotch schoolmasters are educated examined appointed paid & superintended".

The unfortunate state of Ireland has prevented any active measures from being adopted in favor of the youth. In some part of this Island where the schoolmasters are able men & where money has been received

from the Government thro' private societies, great good has been done - But in other parts where the Schoolmasters are worthless characters, their influence has been injurious.

The religious Education of their ministers is similar to that of the English. Those supported by the establishment with the exception of a few able men are entirely unfit for their duties while on the other hand the dissenters are distinguished for enterprise for learning & for piety.

France has done much for this great cause among her people. Soon after the throne of Louis Philippe was established & the tricolored flag again in triumph waved on the Tuileries the citizen King dispatched one of the most distinguished French Scholars & Philanthropists Monsieur Cousin to inquire into the system of Education adopted in Germany more particularly in Prussia. That report was published about a year since and the nature of its facts were such as to send a thrill all thro' Europe. General attention was awakened - Government resolved to establish a national Education department - the possibility of procuring a learned and as far as possible pious body of teachers becomes the object of inquiry. It is felt in the words of M. Cousin "that all national Elementary Education must be founded on religion

there are no good popular schools when this is wanting - the more I think" continues he "the more I think on the subject the more I converse with those qualified to inform the more am I convinced that to instruct the people we must go hand in hand with the clergy & make religious education a special and distinguished branch of instruction in our primary schools." It is not to be supposed that this is the general feeling throughout France - the multitudes of Paris & the other great towns are probably neither more nor less irreligious in 1833-4 than in 1825. But the belligerent scepticism of Voltaire & his philosophic followers has ceased to be fashionable. religion is no longer a mark for the disdain & vituperation of the higher class of writers. "The want of religion" says the Protestant minister of Bordeaux M. Bermeilh "The want of religion every where reveals itself Men do not believe that it is true but they no longer plume themselves on their incredulity - They are not pious but they have ceased to ridicule & denounce it in others - they no longer laugh at its absence but rather regret that they do not possess it". It is true that if religion is introduced into the French schools it will be as a political system - a means not of benefitting individuals but of re-

constructing society, but it is to be observed the French
views every subject in a political point of view. It will be
neither catholic nor protestant "Catholicism says Dominean
is to be rejected because it begins to dwindle into a mere
set of forms & observances & thereby to lose its influence -
Protestantism not because its dogmas are untrue its belief
too much or too little but because it is "coldly stationary".

The condition of the catholic clergy in France is generally
speaking depressed & indigent in the extreme - It may be
safely affirmed that as a body they are ~~superior~~ inferior than the
schoolmasters of England & Scotland - in no respect habits, Ed-
ucation, manners, are they superior to the peasantry who surround
them & their state has if any thing become more depressed during
the past year for the best of reasons "they are generally in-
different or hostile to the instruction of the people".

The character education & piety of the Protestant ministry
on the other hand has astonishly increased - A volume instead of a sentence
might be written upon this - But we are obliged to pass on
merely noticing that the influence of the Geneva Seminary has been
beneficial. Some Efforts have been made both in France &
America to establish an Education Society for the support of
pious young Frenchmen & Americans during their studies

preparatory to the gospel ministry & subsequent labors in evangelizing France - It is believed however that the plan has been laid aside for the present.

Liberal Spain & Portugal will probably follow the example of France in the Education cause & though those Governments will doubtless receive great hindrance from the Priesthood overturned but not destroyed - yet the two enlightened queens Isabella & Maria are too strong, & too desirous of doing good, to be ruled by the machinations of Rome - The people are ignorant & the priests but little superior. The universities are well endowed but the Professors are men of little learning & less ability.

The System of Education in Prussia upon which so much has been lately known written is founded upon religion. The law of 819 thus reads in one of its Articles "The principle end of every school is to train up youth in such a manner as to produce in their minds a conviction of the relations in which man stands to God & the power & the will to regulate his life according to the spirit & principles of Christianity. The School master must form the children early to piety & for that purpose must endeavor to second & complete the 1st lessons of family instruction; the labors of each day shall

therefor begin & end by a short prayer & pious reflections which the master shall endeavor to treat in such a way that this moral exercise shall never degenerate into a mere matter of habit. The masters must also observe that the children attend divine service regularly & that Songs of a religious character be mingled with all the solemnities of the Schools.

Great care is taken that the teachers are pious or when that is not practical very moral; to ensure this they are mostly educated at the public expence in the model Schools & universities - tho' any person properly qualified is eligible to the situation of teacher. The Schools are under such a System of inspection & control that no considerable dereliction of duty can take place on the part of teacher or Parent without detection & punishment. Every child must attend School & consequently the whole Prussian people are religiously educated.

But it is not merely the youth & teachers who are thus instructed additional exertions are used to fit the ministers of religion for their situations as pastors & duties as overseers of the Schools: Accordingly 8 or 10 universities are in operation one alone of which last Summer had a faculty of 90 professors & 43 instructors - the number of students was 1832 besides 5 or 600 who attended particular courses. The spirit of rationalism has never prevailed

among the lower classes of society & it is upon the decline in the higher - Supernaturalism is occupying its place. The influence of Prussia is felt & her example followed by nearly all the lesser German states.

The system of education in Holland nearly resembles the Prussian: if possible it is more profoundly religious. The unfortunate trouble in Belgium has prevented either Good King William or the new government of Leopold from doing much. The Austrian Gov. is stationary. It is supposed by some that Prince Metternich would follow the example of Prussia if it could be done without noise. As the catholic is the state religion the priests are now better supported here than in any other country in Europe - they as a body oppose education of course except in their own orders. The members of the Protestant Church are neither very learned nor very pious tho' within a short time some ~~very~~ favorable movements have been made. The little education in Italy is entirely derived from the Priests - Nothing more need be said of Italy.

In some parts of the kingdom of the Autocrat of Russia education has greatly advanced - additional model & parish schools have been ~~established~~ formed - in some of the provinces the whole population is educated. This is particularly the case in the Polish provinces where the schools destroyed during the revolution have

been restablished at a great expense. Religion is taught in all the schools tho. the people may choose such system as they please. The government is proceeding as fast as posible to supply all her people with schools But from the vast number of her barbarous nations it will be long before she succeeds. There is a great diversity in the character of the Russian clergy tho. it is feared that the mass of them are bigotted & ignorant. This character will doubtless alter when the Universities shall have become sufficiently elevated by means of additional libraries & more learned professors which the government wants to be glad to procure. The government of Turkey is desirous of establishing schools on the European plans. Consequently they encourage the labors of the Missionaries & have permitted them to establish some Lancasterian Schools even within the walls of the Seraglia.

Egypt is advancing with great rapidity. Mehemet Ali encourages learned foreigners and is striving to elevate the character of his people. As the education of Asia is Pagan or Mohemmedan we pass it by; merely observing that it is in a very interesting state. The consideration of the Mission schools in India Africa & the Pacific Islands lies beyond the province of this committee. From this brief review of the state of religious education for one year is it not evident that ere long religion & science shall triumph and ignorance & bigotry be banished from the earth. - Sylvester Woodbridge -